



ISAA

National Newsletter

Independent Scholars Association of Australia Inc

The Boab tree is self-sustaining; it draws on its own resources

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MEMBERSHIP

\$80—Full members
\$50—Concessional
\$140—Household
\$75—Concessional Household

President's Report

Welcome to the November 2024 Newsletter.

A very successful ISAA Conference was held towards the end of October, at the National Library of Australia. The National Library has long been a great supporter of the association and we are grateful for its support. The topics of the papers were varied, reflecting the diverse interests of members, and gave rise to productive discussions.

The decision to hold the evening social gathering at Manning Clark House (MCH), with members of MCH invited to join us, was a good one as it led to vibrant scholarly and social interactions. We look forward to the publication of the Conference Proceedings next year, so that the work of the presenters can be shared with the wider ISAA community.

The ISAA AGM was held at the end of the ISAA conference, in hybrid mode. In spite of the fire alarm going off just as the meeting was about to convene, and attendees having to leave the areas, we were able to complete the business before lunch. We circulated the financial statement before the meeting. The Council membership for 2024-25 is as follows:

President: Hilary Yerbury

Vice President: Ian Keese

Treasurer: Stephen Horn

Secretary: Ron Popenhagen

Ordinary members: Deirdre Baker, Margaret Kelly, Susan Priestley, Susan Steggall and Christine de Matos.

Congratulations to Christine de Matos, elected for the first time to Council. The new Council meets at the end of November, with a full agenda aimed at ensuring that ISAA is responsive to its members.

A key element of the agenda for the year will emerge from the work of the membership committee in identifying the expectations of ISAA members.

ISAA President's Report cont.

The *ISAA Review* for 2024 will be at the printers soon. I am happy to note that we already have papers submitted for the 2025 issue of the *Review*.

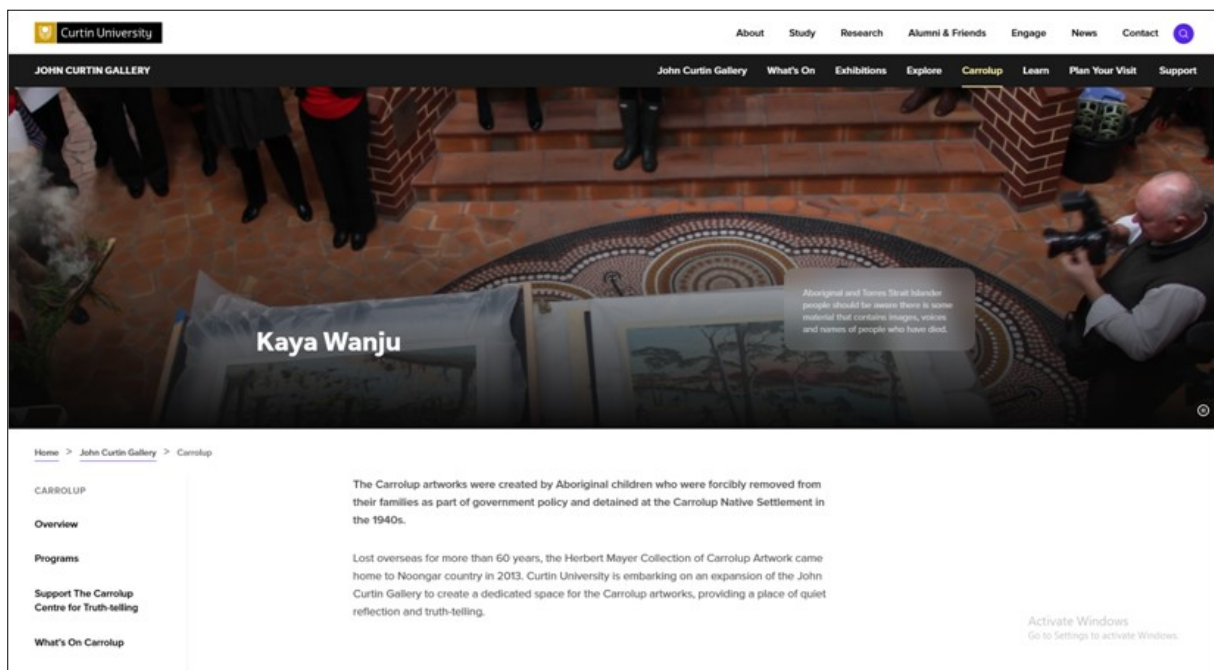
ISAA members have recently been invited to take part in a survey into open access publishing organised by scholars from Leipzig in Germany, and part of ongoing interest by the EU into making the outcomes of research more widely available. This is one of the key concerns of scholarship, as more and more, publishers of traditional established journals require the payment of Article Processing Charges. For those of you who don't know the extent of these as an impost on research and scholarship, including on our universities and research funders, these charges can easily reach \$5,000 and more for a single paper.

Paul Dalglish has made the decision to withdraw from his position as administrative officer for ISAA. He has been a great support to ISAA Presidents and Council members, and an ever helpful source of information for ISAA members over a number of years. I will miss his quiet, authoritative council and his gentle efficiency. We wish him well in the next phase of life.

PYC (Pique Your Curiosity)

I was in Perth recently for a conference and one of the short excursions was to the John Curtin Gallery at Curtin University, to visit the Carrolup Centre, meet with the Director of the Gallery and learn about the Carrolup collection. As the website introduction begins, 'The Carrolup artworks were created by Aboriginal children who were forcibly removed from their families as part of government policy and detained at the Carrolup Native Settlement in the 1940s'. You can learn more here: <https://www.curtin.edu.au/jcg/carrolup-centre/>

Dr Hilary Yerbury
ISAA National President



News from ISAA NSW

ISAA NSW's Committee continued to hold its monthly meetings via Zoom until the end of October. No meeting was held in November due to the absence of the Secretary and the fact that the main business is now planning the 2025 program.

On 25 September the Public Affairs Reading Group discussed *Song Spirals: sharing the wisdom of Country through songlines* by Gay'Wu Group of Women via Zoom. The book introduces the Yolgnu people's lifeworld, explaining the relation of people to land and other beings. It is a generous sharing of the most superficial layer of a multilayered culture which is continued through generations of people learning the Yolgnu culture via their oral traditions.

The October issue of the *Bulletin* was circulated to members in the second week of that month. Also in October some members travelled to Canberra to attend the ISAA Conference at the National Library where several NSW members presented papers and chaired sessions. Some new ISAA members from Victoria and the ACT presented very interesting papers. I would encourage all ISAA members to participate in these conferences when they are held, their multidisciplinary coverage is quite stimulating.

On 1 November we held our second Work-In-Progress meeting in person at the State Library of NSW when Michelle Cavanagh introduced her research findings for a biography that she and a colleague are writing titled 'Love letters to Kim'. Members enjoyed gathering for this talk which was followed by lunch at the Library's Café Trim.

The last *Doing Research* meeting for the year was held on 22 November via Zoom at which ACT member Helen Topor spoke about researching the biography of her father *Neither King nor Saint*. The Christmas lunch will be held at Barracks on Barracks on 5 December.

Work is underway on the 2025 program which will include a workshop on 'The Power of Fiction' and on 21 May Kate Laing will be the speaker for the first open Forum for the year when she speaks on her book *Sister in Peace: The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in Australia, 1915–2015*. Both these events will be held via Zoom and open to all ISAA members. Towards the middle of the year Chloe Mason will speak on her research to clear the names of her great grandmother, Alice Wheeldon, and other ancestors who were wrongly accused of spying. This will be an in-person event. Details about the date, time and venue to follow.

Dr Christine Jennett
Chair ISAA NSW



Ann Moyal Essay Prize



The Ann Moyal Essay Prize for 2024 will not be awarded. The Research and Awards Committee determined that there was no entry that met all the criteria. They thank members for their interest in the essay prize.

Stephen Horn
Chair, ISAA Research and Awards Committee

ISAA 2024 National Conference Report

The theme of this year's National Conference was 'Creating the Commonwealth'. It was a notable Conference marked by significant 'firsts' and highlights for a number of our presenters as well as for ISAA.

For five of the nine presenters this was their first contribution to the National Conference—a notable milestone for the presenters and for ISAA. The supper held at Manning Clark House on the Thursday evening, replacing the usual Thai restaurant meal, was a first for ISAA and a conference highlight.

Professor Mark McKenna, who gave the Annual Lecture on Manning Clark's influence and Professor Nicholas Brown, who lived on the property while doing his Ph D, engaged in a conversation on the role of the house itself, and Dymphna's important role in Clark's work. As was the case in the 2022 Conference we had 20 members, mainly made up of the presenters and in some cases their partners.

Conference Proceedings—Call for Editors

As usual all members will receive a printed version of the Proceedings and I am aiming to have this out by mid 2025. Each paper goes out to a member for revision. Papers are due to me by the end of November. Please let me know if you are willing to edit a paper that lies in your area of expertise.

For details of the program go to isaa.org.au/events/isaa-national-conference-2024-414.



Ian Keese
Conference Organiser

Scholarly Reflections

This issue includes the following Scholarly Reflections

Jim Hodges — *How the Universe Works: Fact and Appearance in Physics and Cosmology Part 5, Ether Drift*

Susan Priestley — *The Kimberley Baobab*

The views and opinions expressed in the articles published in the Scholarly Reflections are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of ISAA.



An Old Scholar at His Desk—Style of Rembrandt van Rijn (National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC USA)

Scholarly Reflections cont.

How the Universe Works: Fact and Appearance in Physics and Cosmology Part 5, Ether Drift

Stella investigates ether-drift induced contraction of matter using a starship fitted with an 'L' shaped right-angled lever, pivotted at the corner and balanced with two springs.

1) Stella, at ether-rest, (i) uses her uncorrected atomic clock to measure absolute ether-rest time, and (ii) since the laser signal time from bow-to-stern-to-bow is 2.0 absolute microsecs and signal speed is 300 m/microsec, the ship's length is 300 m, and (iii) she aligns the bottom arm of the lever with the heading of the ship, and adjusts the tension springs attached to the lever to make this arm exactly horizontal.

2) Stella, at 0.8c ether-speed (i) increases her atomic clock rate by 33.33% (to compensate for its etherspeed slowed clock rate), and (ii) she measures an abs. 3.333 microsecond duration for the bow-to-stern-to bow signal, and since the signal speed to the stern is 1.8c, and to the bow is 0.2c, the 0.36c average speed defines the length of the ship as 180 m, [from ship length = $(0.5 \times 3.333 \text{ microsec} \times 0.36c) = 0.6 \text{ light microsec}$], and (iii) the horizontal/lower arm of the right-angle lever dips against its mechanical stop, affirming the ether-wind has shortened the length of the lower arm.

3) Stella uses her vector thrusters to re-orientate the coasting ship so it is travelling crabwise through the space-dough at 0.8c, and (i) finds that the duration of the out-and- return signal remains at abs. 3.333 microsec, and (iii) the 0.8c ether crosswind and 0.6c signal speed shows the length of her ship has returned to 300 m, [from ship length = $(0.5 \times 3.333 \text{ abs microsec} \times 0.6c) = 1.0 \text{ light microsec}$], and (iv) the right-angle lever returns to balance, confirming a crosswind has no effect on lengths of the lever's arms.

Stella concludes that at speed 0.8c the out-and-return signal time between bow and stern is 3.333 absolute microsec irrespective of the ship's orientation, and although matter contracts by factor 0.6 along the line of flight, there is no contraction at right angles to the line of flight. Note that this behaviour explains why the Michelson Morley interferometer experiment failed to detect the speed of ether drift of the Earth, yet a balanced right-angle lever is able to detect absolute motion at a high fraction of the speed of light.

For any given ether-speed and orientation, matter particles automatically maintain the same out-and-return light-signal separation, and the absolute duration is longer at higher speeds. Upon return to the Solar System, were Stella to point her ship at constellation Leo the ether wind of 0.00123c would induce a miniscule fore-and-aft 2.27 mm shrinkage of her ship [from delta ship-length = (ether rest length x half the square of the ratio of spaceship speed to the speed of light) = $(300\text{m} \times 0.5 \{0.00123c/1.0c\}^2) = 0.00227 \text{ m}$].

In summation, ether-drift contraction of matter has to do with the reduced spacing of atomic and subatomic particles in an ether-wind. The ether is fundamental to understanding how the universe works, and in the Part 6 we begin exploring how the ether creates particles of matter and the various forces of attraction and repulsion which determine the distance between them.

*Jim Hodges
Ether Drift Club
ISAA member*

Scholarly Reflections cont.

The Kimberley Baobab

The ISSA emblem is the boab, otherwise baobab, chosen because it is self-sustaining and 'goes against the grain' appearing to be upside down with its roots in the air. Members might find interest in the following testimony drawn from Ernestine Hill, *The Great Australian Loneliness*, [1937 orig.] 1956, Melbourne: Robertson and Mullens, p.91-3.

Full extract:

'A Caliban of a tree, a grizzled, distorted old goblin with a girth of a giant, the hide of a rhinoceros, twiggy fingers clutching at empty air, and the disposition of a guardian angel – such is Kimberley's baobab, friendly ogre of the great North-west... *Adansonia Gregorii*, first cousin to the African monkey-[tree], the 'boab' as it is familiarly known, belongs to a zone of 1000 square miles skirting the coast between Broome and the Victoria River. Magnificent specimens are to be seen in the streets of Derby and along the banks of the Fitzroy and the Ord, and between those rivers and the sea it grows in profusion, the dominant personality of the bush. As one travels northward and eastward it loses in girth and becomes more of a bottle shape, of which it runs the whole gamut – squat little Benedictine bottles, graceful hock bottles, stone ginger and rum and plain beer [bottles], sherry magnum, and keg and cask and barrel, appropriate in that many a time it has saved a man's life...

Water preserved in its knotted hollows from the wet season is found fresh and clear after many weeks, sometimes months, and when that source fails in the merciless dry, the pith, ripped from beneath the bark and wrung like a cloth into a pannikin, provides a clear draught, cooling and tasteless, that is often the wanderer's eleventh-hour salvation. The rind of the pods, chopped and stirred with water, makes an acrid but nourishing food that 'the blacks' [sic] enjoy, and that tides over the tuckerless white man to the next out-camp or station; and the flower, a waxy white bloom, possesses medicinal values, particularly in allaying fever. Stirred with sugar, it makes a refreshing drink. From this mixture, well-fermented... some bushmen have succeeded in concocting spiritous liquors... which they insist have a fine 'sting' if made from the flowers of young trees. The pollen gum furnishes the blacks with a most efficient glue and a stringy pitch for the sticking of spearheads and stone tomahawks, the fashioning of hair-belts, and the feather-tufts of corroboree gear. From the stranded bark...a rope superior to Manila hemp can be manufactured, and the natives carve the velvet pods with goanna, bird and fish designs, making money from the sale of these curios to tourists.

But it is as first camp and last camp, station homestead, pub, prison, store, post office and bagman's rest that the baobab has twined its roots deepest into the history of the country. That gigantic girth, often 30 feet in diameter, hollow with age, provides a natural 'home from home' for black pilgrim and white...

At Mayall's Well outside Derby, there is a tree-vault 25 feet in diameter, a native burying-ground; the Hillgrove Baob at Wyndham was once a goal, thirty prisoners at one time being chained inside it... and along the Ord River is the Baob of Paterson's Prayer...

Scholarly Reflections cont.

Here it is in its entirety:

O Heavenly Father, if you please,
We pray to you on bended knees
That you and your blessed son, Our Lord,
Will keep the 'cockies' off the Ord.
O paralyse the duffer's hand
When he lifts up his flaming brand,
Keep poddy-dodgers from the glen.
For Jesus Christ's sake, Amen.
Now O God, forgive our sins.
And may every cow on the Ord have twins.

It is a legend of the North that for its kindliness, the gods have conferred immortality upon the baobab, and that except for fire or lightning, or other act of God or man, no one has ever come across a dead one. Botanists estimate the ages of some of the trees in centuries. Immune from the ravages of the years and the white ants, it is a patriarch. To all the wayfarers of that splendid empty country... the baobab is universal friend, and in the battle with uncompromising Nature, a mighty ally.'

Susan Priestley
ISAA member



Spotlight on the work of Christine de Matos

For a week in November, Christine de Matos spent time in Germany with her research colleague, Dr Bettina Blum, at the invitation of Paderborn University. This was to work together – for once in the same time zone – to complete a funding application for their comparative project on occupied Germany and Japan after the Second World War.

This project compares the housing and communities created during these two occupations for families from Britain, Australia, British India, and the United States, and the human interactions that occurred in these spaces between these occupiers and the German or Japanese occupied peoples. The project has a special focus on women and families.

Christine and Bettina also gave a presentation on the project at Paderborn University and the LWL-Institut für westfälische Regionalgeschichte Münster, and visited the site of the former British headquarters in Bad Oeynhausen. Bettina, Christine and the rest of the team, including Rowena Ward (Wollongong University) and Maho Toyoda (Waseda University, Japan), hope to submit the application to the German funding body, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), by the end of this year and to begin the project later in 2025.



The Wandelhalle in Kurpark, Bad Oeynhausen, built in 1926. This building was used by the NAAFI (Navy Army Airforce Institutes), which provide for the recreational needs of the British forces, during the occupation of Germany. Photo taken by C de Matos 14 November 2024.



Paderborn University, Germany. Taken by C de Matos 15 November 2024.

Spotlight on Professor Shirley Randell AO

Presentations

5 March 2024, Sport Matters Board and AGM via Zoom, *Annual Report*

13 March 2024, United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, Workshop on Educating Outside the Classroom: Women's Museums Empowering Women and Girls, *Her Place: Women's Museums in Australia A significant member of the worldwide Network International Association of Women's Museums*

14 March 2024, Meeting of the Board of Empowering Women in Education, *Leadership of Inspirational Discussion on Future Directions*

30 August 2024, Club Rafiki Youth Centre Nyamirambo, *Speech to Girls Graduating from Youth Activities Program and Presentation of Certificates*

3 September 2024, African New Life Ministries, *Exploring Ideas to Improve the Access to Education of Refugees and Other Marginalised Girls*

4 September 2024, Rotary Club of Virunga, *Exchange of Flags with Rotary Club of Sydney and Report of Activities*

5 September 2024, Centre for Gender Studies University of Rwanda, *Presentation of Shirley Randell Top Students Awards for 2022 and 2023 and Graduation Address*

5-6 September 2024, Workshop on Intergenerational Justice in Africa Jointly Hosted by the College of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Rwanda, the Department of Politics and International Studies and the Feminist Centre for Racial Justice, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, *Contributions to Discussions*

7 September 2024, Rwanda Association of Graduate Women, *Inspirational Discussion on Reviving the Organisation*

10 October 2024, New South Wales Older Women's Network 2024 State Conference, *Summary of Conference Presentations and Final Address.*

25 October 2024, Women Chiefs of Enterprise International Congress, *Congratulations to WCEI Scholarship Holders and Inspirational Speech on Future Directions*

Interviews

10 September 2024, Club Rafiki, Tony Omar, *Dialogue with Shirley Randell: 'The Role of Youth Centres in Promoting Adolescents Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Case Study' (Video)*

24 October 2024 Women Chiefs of Enterprise International Congress, *Connecting the Dots: Tackling the Big Topics: What does the Concept of 'Active Citizenship' as Business Owners Mean? By Janice Petersen, SBS World News journalist and with Janine Kitson, Environmentalist and Educator*

Members' Publications, Presentations, Activities and News

Christine de Matos PhD

Publications

'The Home as a Space of Re-Education: Imperialism, Military Occupation, and Housekeeping Manuals'. *The International History Review* 46, no. 3 (2024): 291-311. Co-runner up Elizabeth Eisenstein Essay Prize 2024.

'Visualising the Modern Housewife: US Occupier Women and the Home in the Allied Occupation of Germany, 1945–1949'. *Histories* 4, no. 1 (2024): 1-23.

ISAA Ann Moyal Essay Prize 2023: Women in Love (with the Enemy): Forgotten Battles of the Second World War

John James OAM, PhD

Publication

Glory and Tragedy in Notre-Dame d'Etampes: A forgotten mystic endeavour and its brutal suppression, West Grinstead, Bega Valley, Australia 2024. Distributors, Boydell and Brewer, Woodbridge UK. Distributed by Boydell and Brewer in the UK, published by West Grinstead.

50% discount available until the end of the year.

Ron Popenhagen, PhD

Presentation

20th Century Representations of the Baltic Sun: Čiurlionis, Kallis and Pērle Paint the Sky, Presentation with Modern Art Painting Images: Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian Modernist Painters, Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, AABS Australasian Chapter (21st Conference), 'The Baltic States on the World Stage', Edith Cowan University (ECU)—Joondalup Campus, Perth, 13 October 2024.

Susan Steggall, PhD

Presentations

In Conversation with Susan Steggall – To Carve Identity, Lane Cove Library, 14 November 2024.

Identity in Life, Art & Literature, Author Talk, Manly Library, 23 October 2024.

Christine Yeats FRAHS

Presentations

27 October 2024, Royal Australia Historical Society

Annual Conference, *Bessie Fisher and her road to perdition*.

2 November 2024, Parramatta Historical Society: Family History Group, *Soldier Settlement in Greater Sydney after WWI*.

9 November 2024, Waverley Historical Society, address at the launch of the Society's new Journal *Waverley*

Publications

'Planning Digitisation Projects', Federation of Australian Historical Societies *Newsletter*, October 2024, No. 56.

Editor: Royal Australian Historical Society's *History Magazine*, September 2024, No. 161.

Editor: Federation of Australian Historical Societies, *Newsletter*, October 2024, No 56.

Board Appointment

Create NSW : Museums and History Artform Board

Contribution to the ISAA Newsletter in 2025

The deadlines for contributions to the Newsletter in 2025 will be:

7 March

6 June

5 September

14 November

